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REEDY'S MIRROR

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WILLIAM M. REEDY, *Editor and Proprietor.*

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Reflections

By Alpheus Stewart

Looks Good for Gardner

THE continuation of the ante-primary row among the Republicans in the organization of the State Committee at Jefferson City this week gives added assurance that Col. Gardner, the Democrat, will be the next Governor of Missouri. The tendency of the Republican party of Missouri toward fissiparation seems to be ineluctable. It begins to split into factions before it gets the jobs. It is usual to heed the advice of the candidate for Governor in selecting the head of the State Committee. In this instance, the advice of the candidate was ignored and Lamm and his faithful followers, Stifel and Howe, were put under the Dickey-Swanger steam-roller. There is no cohesion in the party. To the Democratic party that may serve as an offset to the Major "curse."

* * *

The Flatness of Hughes

PEOPLE are beginning to mention the way in which the Hughes campaign for the Presidency has fallen flat. His appearance before the people creates no enthusiasm. He has said nothing in his speeches that merits any attention. His speeches are made up largely of generalities, so shaped as to mean much or little, as the opinion behind them happens to be. That he does not approve of the Wilson administration is the one thing of which we are sure in his utterance, but he does not venture beyond the circle of mere complaint. He does not present an alternative theory, which he could say would have been better than the Wilson practice. It is far easier to be an effective fault-finder than an effective doer, but Mr. Hughes is not even an effective fault-finder. There is nothing convincing about the fault he finds with the Wilson administration. His speech of acceptance fell flat and his campaign, so far, has fallen even flatter. He is an able man and his former career certainly led to different expectation. Mr. Hughes must be a great disappointment to the more thoughtful members of his party. So far he has not furnished the country with a single reason for any man voting for him instead of Wilson. He reminds one of a man suspended in the air, making a great struggle but unable to touch solid substance in any direction.

* * *

Trying to Climb Into the Mississippi

WHEN one digs a ditch to drain water into a river the ditch must not be lower than the level of the river. If the ditch is lower than the level of the river water from the river will run into the ditch instead of the water from the ditch running into the river. So much every man knows. He doesn't even have to be a ditch digger to know that. And yet it seems that the engineer who built the Mill Creek sewer didn't know it, if what is asserted about that great ditch is true. The charge is being made that the real reason the sewer will not work is because it is virtually built to run up hill instead of down. That means that its

outlet is below the level of the river at stages even which are not considered high. It was not a forgotten brick wall but the waters of the Mississippi itself that dammed the sewer at its mouth. It is stated that the way this occurred was through an effort to drain the third sub-basement of the Union Station. To drain that sub-basement the sewer had to be dug very deep, but the engineer apparently never realized that he might dig the ditch so deep that it wouldn't drain.

If this is the case, there seems to be no remedy short of a new sewer, unless a sort of upper story is added to the present structure and the Terminal Association is left to pump its sewage up into the ditch, as the city of New Orleans does all its sewage. With such a ditch as this, one cannot help but wonder what is going to happen when the Mississippi gets on a real rampage and the backwater through the sewer begins to exercise its full force. In the interest of accuracy it should be stated that the MIRROR was mistaken in its issue of last week in saying the new ditch is a general sewer. According to Mr. Rolfe, of the Board of Public Service, it is intended to drain surface water only, while the old sewer will serve as the "foul" sewer.

The sewer is rather disconcerting to such of us as had confidence in the new Charter. The new Charter, as will be remembered, centralizes power in the hands of the Mayor and disposes sufficient salaries to the heads of departments to enable him to have as his assistants men of the highest grade. He had the Board of Public Service and Sewer Commissioner Talbert to assist him in seeing that the sewer was properly built. It is anything but a cheering reflection on the new Charter. That was expected to give us efficiency. I am inclined to think that this sewer will make itself felt on the political ambitions of the Mayor to succeed himself, for as the new Charter clothes him with high responsibility, the public will be inclined to hold him to account. This is to be regretted, for Mr. Kiel has made a good Mayor and even if the sewer has its defects of construction and operation, it is not likely that they will be found due to the usual political graft.

* * *

Death of a Friend

WHEN Col. James J. Butler died the other day we all lost a friend, for Col. Butler strove as best he might in the present muddled and partially organized state of society, to aid his fellowman with the wealth he had accumulated. Nor did Colonel Butler merely give. He tried to give understandingly and helpfully. The Poor Man's Bank, which he promoted, was an organized effort at helpfulness, resting on a sound business basis. To teach people to think, or in other words, to educate them, is recognized as one of the most effective aids to human advancement. Col. Butler was a most generous friend of education. For years he has been the principal support of Lindenwood College at St. Charles. There is no school for girls better calculated to turn out a fine, cultured, high class of womanhood than Lindenwood, the only fault to be found with the college is that in accomplishing this

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the tendency is rather away from democracy. But Col. Butler himself was a fine, democratic type of man, and as long as the distribution of wealth is so unequal as it is, it may be said that there is none on whom a rich share is bestowed who was more worthy than Col. Butler. He was a lover and helper of his kind, and no better epitaph than that can be written over any man.

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Professional Reformers

THE professional reformers of the Anti-Saloon League seem to have received a serious set-back in the recent State primary. Both Gardner and Lamm were nominated for Governor on the two tickets and that means that whichever ticket wins, the Anti-Saloon League loses in its scheme to impose prohibition on this state, whether it wants it or not. The professional reformers of that body, from the first, shaped their campaign to defeat Gardner. They were against Lamm, the Republican, but they spilled most of their bitterness on Gardner. And Gardner won by more than two to one over his next highest competitor. This vote may be accepted as evidence that the people do not wish prohibition if it can be avoided. However, the professional reformers like Shupp, have to tap the fat war chest of the Anti-Saloon League and the only way to do is to keep agitating.

How little wisdom this organization and the professional reformers it hires really have, is sharply illustrated in their attempt to elect a Governor who would sign a prohibition bill with a health and safety clause attached, so that it could not be submitted to a vote of the people under the referendum. This was a confession of their own dishonesty. It is proof that they are believers in tyranny and are against democracy. It was saying in a way that was entirely convincing: "We know what is best for the people and we intend to impose it on them whether they want it or not." How can any body which pretends to represent a great moral principle be guilty of what amounts to an immoral act in trying to get a law passed, by trickery and technical evasion, which it virtually confesses the people do not want?

The lack of brains in the self-styled temperance reformers in this country is illustrated in just such methods as this, in the absurd belief that prohibition can be imposed on the people whether they want it or not. Temperance reformers in those countries of the world who have not as yet emancipated themselves from the monarchial institution, know that such laws cannot be made to work without the consent of the people. In fact, America, which is supposed to be a demonstrator of democracy to all the world, is the only country that tries to impose sumptuary legislation without the consent of the governed. John Koren, in the book, "Alcohol and Society," recently reviewed in these columns, makes a careful survey at temperance legislation in all the civilized countries of the world. It is found from this book that the temperance reformers in every other country in the world, save this, instead of trying to circumvent and crush out public sentiment, have the most profound respect for it. Not only this, but they demand, especially in Australia and New Zealand, that local option may be enacted only when it is seen that a majority of the voters are in favor of it. In nearly all countries where local option is provided for, it may not be had merely on a majority vote, but some of these political divisions require that as much as forty per cent of the entire vote must be cast and as much as fifty-five per cent must be for local option. Even when it is thus voted, some states make provision for its resubmission within a short time. Because American prohibitionists are ready

and eager to impose their panacea in any way they can, is one reason, as Koren points out, why prohibition in America has never worked. All foreign countries where liquor legislation is proposed are considerate of the property rights connected with the business. Your American prohibitionist, on the contrary, thinks that the liquor dealer has no rights of any kind that it is necessary to respect. Even where there is a majority vote of all the voters in a given district in favor of prohibition, it is no evidence that all who vote for it are really in favor of it. The preachers and such bodies as the Anti-Saloon League have set up the false proposition that this is a great moral issue, and that the man who votes against prohibition is in favor of drunkenness and disorder. Many men vote for prohibition because they are coerced by this conception. They are cowards. When there is not a real majority sentiment in favor of it, it has never worked and it never will.

But let no man deceive himself that when such a propaganda as that of the Anti-Saloon League finds itself once more badly defeated it will, because of that, stop its pernicious activity. There is big money behind that organization and the professional reformers get their share of it by keeping the agitation going. Many professional politicians long ago smelled that boodle and the propaganda is already tangled with the vilest kind of politics. The professional reformers who represent the League are already claiming that they own the Legislature to assemble next January. It is very likely this is true. If it is true we may expect no legislation that the State may need. The Legislature will fool away its time making threats against the sumptuary liberties of the people of Missouri.

The Anti-Saloon League is not likely to resent the assertion that it has no sense. It does not depend on wisdom but on emotion—the emotion of women and children, mostly, who know nothing about the liquor problem save what ill-informed prohibition fanatics tell them.

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THE Board of Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Church seems to have caught a new angle on the prohibition question. On the sheet it issues for distribution to the newspapers it boosts picture shows as an antidote for the saloon. This involves a substitute of a sort for liquor, which is an angle the intolerant reformers of the churches would never heretofore entertain for a moment. The Methodist Church may not be going very far, but it is going some. The genesis of failure in all temperance reform is the refusal of the more practical to realize that saloons and stimulating liquors fill a great want, and that the only way to deal with that want is to attack it with substitutes.

❖❖

Getting Back to Protection

THE *Globe-Democrat* expresses itself as pleased that, as it claims, Candidate Hughes has been able to claw the political situation back to the safe ground of protection. Nobody else has observed that he has had any particular success in that direction, although there are doubtless other Republicans like the G.-D. who would be pleased to see the Republican end of the campaign brought to some point where it would have some order and effectiveness. The protection issue has been thrashed to a frazzle, and most things that could be said have been said, but it may be suggested that getting the question back to first principles, it resolves itself into an essay against progress. Progress and civilization have been always in direct ratio to advances in means of intercommunication and improve-

ment in the methods of exchanging commodities. The real principle of protection for protection's sake may be seen if theoretically carried out to ultimate terms, for protection is nothing more than an attempt to put barriers in the way of trade for the benefit of certain interests. If the doctrine of protection is sound, except where it can be frankly shown that it is necessary to give a certain interest an advantage over all other interest, which are to be taxed for its benefit, the doctrine is just as sound that we should blow up the Panama Canal and forbid ships to dock at our ports. The theory of protection, if carried to its ultimate terms, would discourage all the mighty means of intercommunication which are parts of modern civilization. The ideal nation, if the doctrine of protection were fully applied, would be a hermit nation like Japan before the middle of the last century. For ships and canals and railroads make competition easier and the object of protection is to make it harder. We are trying to pass a shipping bill to increase the number of ships to bring and take products from our shores. We built the Panama Canal for the same purpose and then we proceed to build a wall of so-called protection to keep the commodities out when they reach us. Could anything be more absurdly illogical than this?

The great solvent of humanity's problem is freedom. The race has never traveled very far without its urge. The same thing is true of trade. It has developed, and civilization with it, to the extent that it has been free. Notwithstanding the primary unsoundness of the principle that would seek to place trade on an artificial basis, with penalties to restrict its development, it has a great vogue in this country and the G.-D. may be right in its expediency when it gives a hint to Hughes to stick to that issue.

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SOMEBODY out on the Coast asked Hughes how he felt. "Bully!" said that great pussy-footer. And yet there are some people who pretend to think that the Colonel is exerting no great influence in this campaign.

❖❖

To Deal with Part of the Blight

GETTING more factories for St. Louis and completing the Municipal Free Bridge some time before that part already up rusts down, are desiderata worthy of all approval, but a more immediate work that might engage the attention of such boosters as the B. M. L. would be to find some way to deal with the defunct landlordism of this burg. The lifeless, soulless landlordism that lies as a great weight on the city is one of the real problems of St. Louis. Of course it is not "good form" to say this, as the St. Louis motto is: If you can't say anything good don't interfere with what is bad by publishing the facts. It is a difficult problem for any civic body to deal with. But, really, the Business Men's League or some other similar body might try the effect of moral suasion. Several clean-up campaigns have been prosecuted in St. Louis with some effect. Considerable rubbish was thus gotten rid of, but no such campaign ever touched the downtown landlord where it was worst needed, which is to say his forlorn, filthy, vacant property. What is more depressing than much of the downtown vacant property in this city? Not merely the vacancy is depressing, but the character of that vacancy. After the place once becomes vacant nothing more is ever done to it. A crust of dirt settles on the front inside and out. Generations of spiders and flies leave the marks of their occupancy. The paint fades and begins to scale. The outside of the front becomes a ruffle of tattered signs and dodgers. The "For Rent" sign in the win-

dow turns yellow and the edges curl up. It is not the vacancy alone. It is its chronic and slothful character that is the worst feature. The place not only tells a tale of vacancy, but vagrancy. It is eloquent of neglect, slothfulness and moral decay. Couldn't some way be found to cause this clean-up spirit to penetrate the vast inertia of the average St. Louis landlord? He ought to have enough enterprise and selfish enlightenment to spend a few dollars occasionally in scraping the layers of tacked and pasted signs from his store fronts, in washing the windows and occasionally putting up fresh "For Rent" signs. It would repay the landlords for the few dollars they might expend in this way. It would aid them in getting a tenant, but they have not the judgment to see it or the enterprise to do it. Therefore some way ought to be found to stimulate them.

I confess I have no suggestion to offer as to how St. Louis landlordism may be aroused from its syncope. As it is now, if a landlord wishes to get a lot and then lie down on it and die lingeringly and painfully through many years, there is no way to prevent him. If he elects to gradually rot where his taint would be most offensive and hurtful to the community, the community has no defense. The taint of his decay may affect his neighbors for blocks around but they can do nothing. If we had the Single Tax we would have in it a remedy. About the time Mr. Mossback Landlord got settled on his lot and well started to decay, the Single Tax would come along and shovel him off. Thus he would receive automatic notification that if he wished to gradually rot he would have to go some place where it would be less hurtful and offensive to the community; that his lot was needed for the purposes of improvement and progress rather than for decay and that if he insisted on using it for the latter purpose, he would have to pay the community well for the privilege, in the shape of a tax on the value of the land. "If you don't want to use your land for your own benefit and that of the community, you will have to move and give somebody else a chance to use it." This is the principle of the Single Tax, as I see it. But the farmers say that they know nothing about the Single Tax, and that they never intend to try to learn. So the remedy for the inert condition of the average St. Louis landlord has to be sought in some other direction. They might be urged, as a temporary palliative, to clean up the fronts of their neglected vacant buildings.

♦♦

Puritanism Interferes with Municipal Reform

GEORGE C. SIKES, a newspaper writer, who for twenty-five years has been identified with civic organizations, is convinced that one of the most serious interferences with municipal reform is that Puritanism which wants to enforce Sabbatharianism and regulate the habits of the citizen. One of the difficulties to honest government is that the public will insist on regarding all municipal reformers as persons who have designs on their liberties in the form of sumptuary laws. He says: "The trouble now in our large cities is that men who are fighting for decency and honest government are suspected of being Puritans, no matter what they say. American cities are enduring scandalous abuses objectionable to a majority of the people, which could be cured but for the confusion of the situation by extremists who force to the front issues with which too many respectable citizens become aligned with the minority."

It is undoubtedly true that municipal reform could effect much more than it does if it could once get away from the suspicion of a desire to put through sumptuary conceptions.

Mr. Folk is an example of a reformer who destroyed his own effectiveness by being misled by the sumptuary extremists. The lesson of which is that reform like everything else, can best be accomplished by not attempting to do too much at once.

♦♦

A DISPATCH from the Allies says, "Torrential rains fell in the Somme sector yesterday." As no dispatch has come in from the Germans since then saying that on that day the weather in the Somme sector was dry and hot, some people on this side may be inclined to believe the first dispatch.

♦♦

THE newspapers publish long lists of the late Daniel Catlin's real estate holdings, with prices fixed over against. The assumption is, doubtless, that there is credit in such a showing and that those of us who die without it are discredited, or are of such little worth as to be ignored. I am not saying that Mr. Catlin did not have better things to his credit, but it is true that an obituary writ in figures is quickly faded by time.

♦♦

Justifying Public Opinion

It is perhaps natural that when in a big field of candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor Painter ran a bad last, he should feel disgruntled. But he is also foolish. If Painter had sulkily nursed his "grouch," a great many people would always have had a feeling that a mistake might have been made in so overwhelmingly rejecting him. But what does this unwise Painter do but insist on proving to the people that they were absolutely right in their judgment. Had Major, the Minute, not given him a chance to expose himself in the office of Governor, the four or five thousand people in the State who voted for Painter might have gone to their graves hugging the delusion that Painter really was qualified for that office. Now they know better.

♦♦

Slow and Bloody

THE Allies' offensive on the Somme appears to be slowing down, as it was predicted it would. At the speed they are now traveling they are giving the Germans time to dig themselves back all the way to the Rhine. A drive, to be successful, must operate with a speed that will give the enemy no time to dig elaborate defenses from which he can be routed only at great expense of life. The Germans in their advance on Verdun demonstrated that that kind of a drive did not pay. Neither is there, as far as we on this side can know, any evidence of weakness in the retreating army on the Western front. The Germans are being slowly pushed back, by superior weight of men and metal, but nothing as far as the public can see, has appeared to indicate that demoralization which presages a defeat. It was known before the war that the Kaiser had organized a mighty war machine, but it was far mightier and more perfectly organized than the world or even the military men of other Powers suspected.

On other lines that are not German, the story is different. The Russians are still advancing and giving the Austrians small chance to dig in. The Italians have taken the outer entrance to the Southern gateway to Austria and the indications are that they will get all the way through. With the French as the leaders, the Allies are advancing on the Salonika front and the military experts seem to think that here will be a decisive campaign against the Central Powers. Their enemies are slowly but surely closing on these Central Powers, but it may be this time next year before peace is in sight. I am not a military expert, but I have never seen but one outcome

to the war. That is the defeat of the Central Powers. I base my opinion on the belief that it is not written in the book of Fate that one, or even two nations can recklessly defy the sentiment of humanity and get away with it. The civilized world stands almost as a unit against the Kaiser and his allies. That means that if by some fluke of fortune, he should be able to conquer the civilized world, he never would be able to hold it in thrall.

♦♦

Peanut Politicians and Their Stunts

THE most inept and inconsequential coterie of men that ever disgraced this State are those who are charged with the administration of the affairs of Missouri. This is no new discovery. It has been known for almost four years. But the Major administration is not content to quietly fade from men's memories, by the natural method of the expiration of its term. It continually insists on reminding the world of its own vast incompetence. Hence, we of Missouri witness the additional scandal of the latest political "break" in which the head of the St. Louis Police Commission is summarily removed and two Commissioners in St. Joseph are dismissed.

There is one characteristic that runs through the present State Democratic Administration. That is, its entire absence of any sense of duty or public responsibility. Lieutenant-Governor Painter, who as Acting Governor, removes the two Commissioners in St. Joe, gives as a reason their unfitness, which is some small concession to the sense of public duty. Their failure to serve the public has long been known, but everybody knows this had nothing to do with their removal. This occurred because they failed to make good with the right politicians. There never was a bunch of politicians as totally unconscious of the fact that they owe the public a service. They are sweetly unaware of anything of the kind. They go ahead and administer the offices for their own private and political benefit, and I believe it to be an actual fact that they fail to practice service to the State because they are wholly unconscious of their duty. An idiot is not to be blamed for not having any brains, is he? Why, then, should we blame a politician of the Major school because he does not and cannot realize that he owes the State anything of service?

Before the primaries, Lieutenant-Governor Painter was making declarations that if Governor he would "clean out the Police Boards of the big cities." In the interest of the public service? Not at all. What Painter meant was that he would clean out all the men who were not his political friends and put in those who were. Major leaves the State and Painter automatically takes his place as Governor and Painter then demonstrates what he meant. He meant the same Major and the entire bunch have always meant—which is that they were placed in office for their own personal benefit. It is a fortunate thing that men who are so entirely blind to public rights as the present Democratic State Administration have neither ability nor courage. Were they both courageous and able, and at the same time deficient in a sense of public right they would be dangerous. As it is, they are merely contemptible.

And Governor Major is the most contemptible of the entire lot. Col. Horace Rumsey recently appears to be the keeper of the gubernatorial political conscience and judgment. The two have to be put together to be visible to the naked eye, and Horace has a dread that he may lose both, so small are they. How characteristics of Major, therefore, was it when the pressure of political interests be-

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came so strong against McPheeters and the St. Joseph Commissioners as to disturb him, that he neither had the courage to remove them or stand by them. He hunted his Adulam Cave with Rumsey's assistance, over in Illinois and then let Painter do it.

It is said that local politicians, especially those of the Democratic City Committee, urged Governor Major to do all this before the primary. The City Committee especially wanted the scalps of Election Commissioners May and Drabelle, and it is possibly a part of the contract that Painter act as executioner in their cases also. The Democratic City Committee charges that in Drabelle and May are two men who can see no ill in anything Major has ever done. The Democratic City Committee claims that because it is not pliant to the Major desires in all things, Drabelle and May punished it by refusing to appoint the men recommended for judges and clerks by the City Committeemen, but appointed instead judges and clerks who were recommended by the candidates for the City Committee who were defeated. The forces that operated to McPheeters' removal as head of the Police Board, are to be discovered, it is said, in Rumsey's desire to be the Democratic candidate for Mayor, and as McPheeters also had the same ambition, that was an attitude of disloyalty which could not be tolerated. Another thing that entered into this phase of the case is the attitude toward Chief Young. Young excites both religious and political hostility. The Catholics are said to be against him. Young is alleged to be a Republican and while no charge is made that he has connived at Republican crookedness, it is stated that he has shown particular zeal in protecting the ballot box from Democratic thieves. And McPheeters is his friend.

It is not so much that McPheeters was removed from office as the way in which it was done and the unscrupulous political motives lying behind it that leaves the matter open to condemnation.

♦♦

McPheeters and the Politicians

MR. THOMAS MCPHEETERS, who at this writing is suspended, between his determination to hold on and the efforts of the Major politicians to separate him from the Presidency of the Police Board, it is evident, personally and as a citizen may be considered one of our desirable, but as a lover of liberty I cannot pretend to mourn if the Major outfit does finally succeed in separating him from the office. And in view of the fact that the Governor, by Democratic devices, is the virtual autocrat of this city in its police, excise and electoral functions, it is hard to see how McPheeters is going to hold on.

The politicians say that one objection to McPheeters was that he did not seem to have "proper control" of the department. That may mean nothing to his discredit, but the contrary. Not having "proper control" may mean with them that he could not or did not swing the police on election day to put Democratic grafters into office. At any rate, he did not, which is greatly to McPheeters' credit when we take into consideration that his Jefferson City over-lord is a man civically unmoral and when not dancing or otherwise neglecting the duties of his office, has never shown any higher conception of the Governorship than that it is an agency to be used to the political benefit of the incumbent. St. Louis was sickened for years by a political police force, which with the excise and election powers returned St. Louis Democratic for years when it was known to be Republi-

can. There is no taint of that kind on McPheeters, although enough is now leaking out to show that the pressure of the Jefferson City machine must have been strong against his attitude. If he cared to, Mr. McPheeters could doubtless greatly edify the public with the revelations he could make along that line. In fact he has told how Lieutenant-Governor Painter wanted him to remove or transfer certain men. Painter did not want this done to the improvement of the force. He didn't pretend anything of the kind, and doesn't now. He boldly admits that he wanted the service to that extent prostituted to his own personal animosities or political interests. McPheeters refused to do this and that is the animus of the Painter action against him. But it is not believed that this extended any farther than was necessary to induce Painter to consent to do this dirty work for Governor Major. It is believed to have been Mr. Rumsey, the excise Commissioner, who really wanted McPheeters' official head, and forced Major to give it to him. Major can refuse Rumsey nothing, but he was too cowardly to wield the knife himself, so he persuaded Painter to wield it for him and then hurriedly left the State. It was a puerile and clumsy attempt at evasion, but it is characteristic of the man who did it. It is the method of its doing and the sordid politics behind it all that disgusts decent citizens.

It is because of his slant toward sumptuary "reform" and his zeal to strictly enforce all the intolerant laws of Puritanism that I am among those who do not mourn to see McPheeters go, as the head of the Police Board. There is too much of intolerance in St. Louis, too much interference with innocent amusements, too much devotion to the odious effort to impose the concepts of an offensively respectable class on everybody. The efforts of the police should be devoted to defending honest men from criminals and preserving order, rather than to trying to enforce the dogma of Sabbatarianism and hunting down social kitchen games of penochle. A man with the McPheeters respect for sumptuary laws would have been an ideal Police Commissioner for the unscrupulous politicians, but for one thing. McPheeters wouldn't play the game as it is usually played. The usual method is to get the preachers all worked up, set the police to suppressing vice and raise a great "moral" fog, under cover of which the politicians can steal elections and graft themselves fat. More crimes against good government have been committed under cover of moral reform than in any other way. But McPheeters wouldn't see it that way and that beyond doubt is the reason of his quarrel with the politicians. And now McPheeters has lost his official head

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Shifting Sides

A BIG manufacturers association in New England has sent the President a hot demand that he support the principle of arbitration. The railroad managers also have been urging it in the present strike situation. We learn that there is nothing which the capitalist of this day holds more precious than this same principle of arbitration. Nothing would cause him to mourn quite so deeply as to see this principle sink. And yet it was but a few years ago that the capitalists treated the proposal to arbitrate with contempt. Whenever there was a strike and the unions begged for arbitration, it was the capitalists who coldly came back with the answer—"Nothing to arbitrate." Now it is the unions that are refusing to arbitrate. Surely things do shift

and change in this unstable world, in the most bewildering way; save only in St. Louis, which being a little slow, is not expected to keep up with the fashion changes in industrial trouble. Hence the milk drivers are unfashionably demanding arbitration and the employers are resisting. Some few wagons, guarded by policemen, are attempting to deliver milk and are followed by mobs of loud voiced strikers, disturbing the general peace and the particular peace of such strike-breakers as they can catch in position to slug. The whole thing is an infernal nuisance and a most disturbing evidence of the inability of the American people to govern themselves.

Returning to the big threat, the impending railroad strike, it may be said that when the unions traded positions with the capitalists, they were guilty of a folly that appears incredible. They have always contended for arbitration. Now they suddenly abandon it. And in doing so they abandon the weapon with which they might have won victory. If these unions do precipitate a strike, after refusing to arbitrate, it will likely be found that they have forfeited the sympathy of the American people. The railroads will occupy an impregnable position, and the people will no longer show tolerance, as in the past, to the enforcement of labor's demands by mob law. There was some small excuse for mob law on the part of the unions when they could say that they tried to settle the trouble peaceably by arbitration, but as government provided no way to compel such a settlement, the only resort left was an appeal to force. The unions are going to find a considerable change in public sentiment if they refuse to settle their quarrel peaceably and then start to rioting. The public can shift its position as well as unions and capitalists.

The side that refuses to arbitrate a controversy that cannot be settled otherwise, by virtue of the fact sets up the theory against itself that its cause is weak. In civil disagreements between citizens, the remedy is to leave the case to a disinterested body of citizens provided by the courts. They can either do that or hold their peace. They are not permitted to settle their differences by wager of battle, while the citizens in the nearby houses seek their cellars. When they attempt to do that, the law adjudges them a nuisance and a menace to public order and quickly abates them. The law does not assume that it is the duty of the peaceful citizen to suffer inconvenience and danger because any two citizens do not believe in courts and decide to fight it out. And the law should take the same attitude toward unions and capitalists which decide to settle their quarrels by wager of battle. The claim of the railway unions that the decisions in other arbitrations were not to their liking, is no defense of their present position. In courts of law the decision is seldom pleasing to one side or the other and sometimes to neither side, but both sides have to take it.

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Weather and Politics

THE many gentle readers of the MIRROR will miss the calm erudition of the editor and his discussion of high-brow subjects. They have offered them instead more than the usual amount of politics. The fact is there is little of public interest to discuss, save politics and the great labor unrest which is similar to politics in many of its bearings. And that last suggests the high cost of living. Did you ever see food prices so high as they are now? And right in the midst of the season of great-

est production, when prices should be lowest. It is pinching a great many people and it is going to pinch them more before this time next year. The labor unrest is going to increase, because the salaries of the workers will no longer cover expenses. The other subject of general interest is the weather. But people don't discuss that. They "cuss" it, or the bold and reckless ones do. As for myself, in the summer time, I am always inclined to treat the weather with respect. I don't care to offend it. I am inclined to propitiate it for much the same reason that our forefathers propitiated the devils. As this is written there is a sort of cool hole in the weather. If we failed to show our appreciation, it might, inside of twenty-four hours either be snowing or have us guessing whether it would reach 98 at one o'clock, or would stop at 96. St. Louis weather is as capricious as a sixteen-year-old maiden with three devoted beaux on the hooks. This inconsistency may have its charm but too much of it is monotonous. In this respect the weather of St. Louis differs from that of Yuma, Arizona. It gets as hot as Hell in Yuma every summer, but Yuma weather which is in line with the Hell of tradition. St. Louis gets as hot as Hell also, but is inconsistent, as it is a sort of a damp Hell. This proves that the old timers who manufacture the ancient Hell didn't know what they were doing when they refused to give it water. Yuma is the last station on the official weather report, but she ought to be first if real weather counts. The weather seems to have fixed 100 degrees as the proper Yuma mark. Some days it shifts as much as one degree in twenty-four hours, dropping from 100 to 99. Yuma weather is consistent. I nearly always glance at the Yuman record in the official weather report. It has such lovely consistency that it rather fascinates me.

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Lamm as a Judge

MR. LAMM may be, and indeed showed himself to be an excellent judge of law while he was on the Supreme Bench, but as the Republican candidate for Governor he revealed himself a decidedly poor judge of politics when, urged by Otto Stifel, he wanted Jephtha D. Howe for his campaign manager. Even the politicians of St. Louis, with their strong slant toward the practical, find "Jep" a little too practical. With Howe in this position, Mr. Lamm would have provided the Democrats with an excellent issue. If it had been left to Mr. Gardner to select his opponent's campaign manager, "Jep" is very likely the fellow he would have picked. Besides, Howe has as much as he can possibly do to act as brother-in-law to the next Circuit Attorney of St. Louis.

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Reedy the Critic

By Alpheus Stewart

THE many literary people and those of literary taste in all parts of the world, have doubtless missed the trenchant comments and other literary pabulum of that superb critic and artist, W. M. R., the editor, who perhaps at the moment you are reading this will be hauling a thirty-eight pound salmon—or is it pickerel?—out of the limpid waters of Lake Michigan—or is it Lake Superior? Anyhow, when he gets back, I hope he will spin a few fish stories for the benefit of the readers of the MIRROR. Of course, no one will believe them, but the way Bill will tell them will make them better worth while than the bald and unembellished truth. But shifting back from the piscatorial to the literary, all I can do while he is gone is to strive

to keep the contrast from becoming too painful. I am no literary critic, and W. M. R. is, and a much greater one than his fellow-citizens here realize, though there are many out on the world circuit who read the MIRROR who doubtless do realize his quality.

A young literary man recently tried to tell me that Reedy is only half a critic. "That he is the most wonderful appreciator of his own time I grant you, but he cannot or will not see but one side of a literary proposition." There is an element of truth in this, and it is just large enough to deceive the speaker, who is young and does not know Reedy's work as well as people like myself, who are older. Reedy as a critic is nearly always an appreciator, but it is not at all due to a one-sided critical faculty. No man can more quickly see the weaknesses in a work of art than he, and if you will believe me, and I have known his work these many years, none can more neatly and quickly "take the hide off" a literary, dramatic or artistic work and leave it stark and with all its faults exposed, than William Marion Reedy. And at times he can turn the trick with a sentence or a phrase. There is no writer I know that has such a wonderful art of compression, who can say so much in such few words. There are few who can put a sharper point to irony or draw satire to a more razoredged keenness than he. It is true that he does not use this faculty as much now as formerly, but I think it is largely due to the growing spirit of kindness in the man. It is not that he does not see the defects in any work of art; it is likely that he hesitates to wound. Perhaps he has reached the conclusion that the bad in anything may be left to the adjustment of time, that only that which is worth while survives, anyhow. For the law is the reverse of what Anthony pronounced it to be, above the body of Caesar. The good is not interred with the bones, neither does the bad survive.

"Dick" O'Neil, in a letter I received from him not long ago, wrote this phrase: "Reedy, once a veritable D'Artagnan of literature, is become a placid Buddha." I thought the phrase aptly descriptive, because it represents a change that has taken place in the critical work of W. M. R. It is likely true that there is not as frequently as formerly, the glint of steel and the sharp click of the rapier blade. The readers of this will know that these characteristics have by no means disappeared, however. But the word "placid" is scarcely accurate. Serene would be the better word. Neither is he the Buddha of modern degenerated Oriental fatalism, but that prince who was a teacher when the world was young. He may have changed partly from D'Artagnan to Buddha because he has become more of a teacher, has more of the breadth and wisdom of the Buddha Gautama.

There are few writers who can more surely and thoroughly analyze a play or book than Reedy, or more completely saturate his words with ideas in telling about it. I heard his lecture on Shakespeare, delivered one Sunday this summer at Temple Israel in this city, in celebration of the tercentenary of the Bard. He got a bad start, inasmuch as the religious service lasted for an hour before the lecture began. He spoke for an hour and twenty minutes. He forgot himself, spoke without notes or manuscript, and none at the end was more surprised than he to discover that he had spoken an hour and twenty minutes. He told me he thought he had been talking about twenty minutes. But he held that assembly to the end of the two hours and twenty minutes—and held it long past its lunch hour. And to do that, believe me, is some trick in St. Louis, without the assistance of cabaret singers and slap-stick comedians. There are people of intelligence here, of course, but most of our literary culture turns chiefly to the city directory and the sporting page. When I heard the lecture, I regretted that other cities could not hear it. For it was a magnificent lecture. There is an entire literature on the literary work of Shakespeare. It is almost a library in itself. You would think that

everything had been said that could be said since Shakespeare died three hundred years ago. But if you had heard that lecture you would have heard something new, for it was Shakespeare as Reedy sees him. It was a wonderful critique of the works of the Bard, an analysis that deserves preservation. The local dailies will doubtless be surprised to learn through this that this important literary event really took place sometime in June—that is, their surprise will be marked to the extent of their interest, which is not great in things merely of the mind.

Do not let the fact that this appears in the MIRROR influence your judgment as to its sincerity or origin. Mr. Reedy has had nothing to do with what is said here. In fact, the first he will know about it will be when he reads it, and the most of you will read it before he does. I don't even know where he is. He went up North somewhere and got tangled up in one of those Algonquin place names, which conceals him as completely as though he had gone to one of those Russian towns over in Poland and because they have to learn to pronounce the names makes us feel sorry for the Germans even when they are not getting licked. They say that the Russians who live in those towns can pronounce their names, but I have always doubted it. Well, Bill went off and hid himself in a town like that, only with not so many consonants. He told me the name of it, but it didn't do any good. Thus you will see that what here appears is mine own. In casting about for some subject to keep the paper from slumping entirely out of the literary field, I thought of the editor. Who is William Marion Reedy that he should escape, I said to myself. He said for me to regard him as dead for the time being. I was afraid he might stay "dead" and not send in anything this week. So I let him have it.

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Her Next Friend

By Harry B. Kennon

IT was the afternoon hour when shade falls on the fashionable side of the boulevard, when a breeze is all but sure to brisk in from the lake, when tea-dances are on at the prominent boulevard hotels and go-as-you-please dances flourish at more or less obscure cabarets in the adjacent side streets; the delectable hour to those prisoners of the town possessed of sufficient energy to make an effort to see and be seen during the heated term.

Two women—mother and daughter, at a second glance sure to be indulged—walked down the boulevard. They were dressed in the extreme of the prevailing summer's fashion, the mother as similarly to her daughter as her maturity permitted. Between their nobility and the wind there was little; what little there was the tricksy zephyr delighted in arranging and rearranging for further revelations. Behind them walked a policeman.

As the trio passed the entrance of the Boulevard Club, the girl gave a significant twirl to her closed sunshade, the mother a quick, vicious glance at the young, Palm Beach suited man advancing with a lifting of his Panama. The policeman stepped forward and arrested the natty youth.

So quietly was it all done that passers-by might have thought the encounter simply a matter of inquiring of the officer for the taxi that drove up to the curb; the curious may have wondered a bit at the policeman accompanying the party, but it was of the boulevard cinema, seen to be forgotten.

"You will appear against this party?" asked the police captain, at the station.

"Indeed I will," answered the woman. "Things have come to a pretty pass if my daughter can't appear on the boulevard without being insulted. Of course," she added, "we don't want any more publicity than we can help."

"Nobody ever does," commented the captain, dry-

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ly. "Judge Frank is holding summer sessions in chambers. You will be notified when to appear."

The woman looked vindictively at the man under arrest. "I wouldn't miss appearing," she said. "We mothers can put a stop to this mashing. Why don't you lock up that vile wretch?"

The vile wretch sat quietly waving his Panama; no breeze entered the police station.

"He will be attended to," answered the captain. "You have made your charge and given me your address and telephone number; you can do no more at present." He watched the angry woman go out to the waiting taxi and her daughter; then he turned to his prisoner. "What have you got to say for yourself?" he asked.

"I'm winded," was the perspiring man's answer. "Let me use your phone to get bail, will you? It's too dam'd hot to accept your hospitality."

The captain grinned as he shifted his desk telephone. "Help yourself," he said.

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Judge Frank looked over his glasses at the stylishly arrayed woman before him. "You appear as your daughter's next friend in this case," he said.

"Yes, Judge. She isn't of age yet. That man met her on the street and insulted her."

"How?"

"She was on the boulevard alone, Tuesday afternoon. The snake crept up and tried to seduce her into a cabaret. My daughter! The idea!"

"Let me have only the facts," advised the judge.

"Well, that's what he did. She told me; she tells me everything. I had him arrested."

"I wish more women had your courage, madam. Is your daughter in court?"

"Why no—I thought that I—"

"It will be necessary for her to appear, as a witness."

"She never was in such a place, Judge."

"There are worse places," was the consoling reply. "How soon can you get her here?"

"She is waiting out front in my car—on the shady side."

The judge called the attending bailiff: "Take a card from the complainant down to the witness wanted, and bring her into court."

"Can't I go with him, Judge?" pleaded the mother.

"It will only delay the hearing," answered the judge. He waited until the card was written, and then addressed himself to the policeman: "You arrested this defendant?"

"Yes, your Honor; on complaint of the lady here."

"What was he doing when you made the arrest?"

"He was standing at the door of the Boulevard Club. He saw the ladies and walked towards them, lifting his hat."

"And then you arrested him?"

"Yes, your Honor. The young lady pointed him out to me as the masher that accosted her the day before."

"Did he offer any resistance?"

"None, your Honor. He just said 'Stung!' and went with us in the taxi."

"It was arranged that the taxi should be there, then?"

"To follow us down the boulevard, your Honor, as I followed the ladies."

"That will do," said the judge. He turned to the defendant: "You have heard the testimony of these witnesses?"

"Yes."

"Is their testimony correct?"

"As far as it goes, Judge."

"Have you anything to add?"

"I have—and I haven't."

"How is that?"

"I suppose I've got to take my medicine, Judge."

"You have," responded Judge Frank. "It would be better, though, if you told your symptoms before the dose is administered."

"I was arrested when I lifted my hat to the ladies—"

"Not to me," interrupted the fair complainant.

The young man smiled. "I thought you were her sister," he said.

"Address the court, sir—Don't interrupt, madam," commanded Judge Frank, finding this free and easy interchange too informal for even an informal summer hearing in chambers.

"Will I be permitted to tell just what happened, Judge?" asked the young man.

"Confine yourself to that," was the answer.

"It was this way, then. I had just left my club on Tuesday afternoon; I was standing at the entrance, thinking where to go. I noticed a girl coming towards me, a peach—an invitation—"

"How do you mean, 'an invitation'?"

"She gave me the once over, Judge—"

"The what?"

"She looked me up and down and full in the eyes. I don't know how to put it, but I felt no hesitation in bowing to her."

"Never saw her before, and bowed to her?"

"Yes. My hat was off my head before I knew it."

"And you had no hesitation in speaking to her, after your bow?"

"None."

"Then you realized your mistake, of course."

"Not then, Judge—not until my arrest next day."

"Explain."

"She didn't seem to mind. She didn't say anything at first, but she smiled and let me fall into step."

"Was she frightened?"

"Not at all. We, or rather I, talked about the weather, and as she didn't exactly turn me down, I walked along beside her. I told her I knew of a cool cabaret, asked her to take it in with me. She said she had a date—"

"What?"

"A date. Said she had a date for that afternoon and couldn't go with me; said she'd just love it. I meant no particular harm, Judge—just thought to show the girl a good time."

"What you meant or thought is not evidence."

"So I asked her how about another meeting. She arranged for the next afternoon and left me at the entrance to the Senate hotel. What happened then has been testified to by her mother and the officer."

"Is that all?" asked Judge Frank.

"All, your Honor, except that—"

"Well?" inquired the judge, as the young chap hesitated.

"I guess that's all, Judge—feelings aren't facts."

A gleam of amusement came into Judge Frank's keen gray eyes as he turned them towards the visibly triumphant complainant. He put the formal question: "Is your daughter here to testify?"

"Is it necessary, Judge, after that creature's confession?"

"Is your daughter in court?"

The girl was unmistakably in court and the few people there, Judge Frank included, knew it, had known it from the moment of her entrance—she was that kind of girl. When called upon to testify she stood before the judge in the beauty of youth unabashed, her form revealing summer gown cut to display the swell of her bare young breast and the enticing curves of silken clad calves. Her fetching hat was a mystery of crushed rose leaves, and her pretty feet were encased in high-heeled slippers. She carried the accusing sunshade in her hand and over one gauze-covered arm hung a fluffy, white fur boa. The temperature in Judge Frank's chambers stood at 96 degrees. The girl was refreshingly cool.

"How old are you?" was the first question, preliminary legal queries out of the way.

"Eighteen next March," answered the girl.

"Not last March?" quizzed the judge, noting her physical development, her poise of self-reliance.

"Next March," repeated the witness.

"Do you know the defendant?"

"The girl shot a glance of malicious mischief in the young man's direction—smiled. He smiled back

as if unable to control his lips. "Can't say that I do," she answered.

"You have seen him before?"

"Well, I should say."

"On how many occasions?"

"Two."

"Tell what happened on the first occasion."

"Didn't mother tell you?"

"State what happened." Judge Frank wasted a frown of severity.

"That was Tuesday," responded the witness; "I was walking down the boulevard—"

"Dressed as you are now?" interrupted the judge.

"Was I, mother?"

"You wore the sweet little gown you have on," answered the mother.

"Proceed."

"Let's see—where was I? Oh, yes! I was walking down the boulevard and I saw that swell dresser come out of his club, alone. Generally half a dozen of his sort are standing there every afternoon; but he was by his lonesome, Tuesday. I was just taking in his nifty summer togs when he caught my eye, and lifted his hat."

"You were looking at him attentively, then?"

"That's what he was there for, wasn't it?—in those clothes! Of course, I looked at him. He was looking at me as I came along. Must a girl keep her eyes on the pavement?"

"Were you frightened when he spoke to you?"

"Frightened?" laughed the girl—"me frightened? No. Men don't scare me."

"What did he say?"

"Piffled about the weather, like a fool—as if I didn't know it was hot! I couldn't break away and make a scene, could I? So I let him trail on. He had the nerve to ask me to go to a cool cabaret with him. I told him I had a date."

"Date? Is that the word you used?"

"Sure. I did have a date for tea—with my mother, at the Senate."

"The defendant has testified to your saying you would just love it—meaning the cabaret. Did you say that?"

"I had to say something."

"Then what?"

"He asked me to fix up a date with him. I knew I had him then. So I told him I'd meet him same place, same time, next day. I did. So did mother and our policeman. He'll probably know who to ask to go to a cabaret with him next time."

"Possibly," qualified the judge. He turned to the defendant, and said: "The charge against you is dismissed on the evidence—all the evidence."

"I can go, Judge?" was the surprised rejoinder.

"You are discharged. But never let yourself be brought before me again on a similar complaint."

"Never again, your Honor." The young fellow passed out, bowing to the ladies as he did so.

"But—but!" gasped the astonished complainant; "is that scoundrel to be free to insult the next girl he meets? Is my daughter to be accosted whenever she walks alone on the street?"

"The case is closed," said Judge Frank.

"But my daughter, Judge—my daughter—"

"We all blindly imagine that nothing vicious can happen to our daughters and sons—until it does happen," said the judge, wearily.

"What protection is left young girls when the law won't protect them?" persisted the mother.

"Why, your protection," answered Judge Frank. He was descending from the bench, there being no other case that morning and the room, by now, cleared of all but the two women, the departing clerk, and himself; he paused, thought a moment, and then addressed the dissatisfied woman. "You lodged your complaint as your daughter's next friend," he said, "and as her next friend you may take my answer to your condemning questions: It is this: If you dress your daughter as women of the town dress themselves to welcome customers, and if you permit her to parade the boulevards in combination nursing and ballet costume, neither judges nor laws are going to be powerful enough to prevent her having repeated experiences such as

hers of last Tuesday. And every such experience will make her more common, more easy to approach."

"She can take care of herself. I've brought her up to."

"She cannot. None of us can. Men are flesh and blood, remember. You are old enough to know how weak. If you inflame that flesh and blood, the danger is yours—and the crime. As your daughter's next friend, you would do well to caution her against mentioning having dates when talking with strange men. She might be accosted by an attractive, suspicious plain-clothes man—might be arrested for street walking."

"You are infamous!" exclaimed the mother. "Do you mean to say—?"

"I mean to say, madam, that having rendered in and out of court decisions in your case, I have done my whole duty, as I see it, by the case and you. I must bid you good morning; I have an engagement."

"So have we, mother," cried the girl, as Judge Frank retreated to his inner sanctum, "so have we. Don't let that old fossil fuss you—he don't know what he's talking about. Get your things together. Here, use my vanity bag—your nose is a sight. Come on. We can't miss the Style Show."

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The Forces of Adjustment

By Alpheus Stewart

WHAT the labor leaders do not sufficiently take into account in their struggle for higher wages is the resistless force of the natural law of adjustment. There is an imperative law that operates in all such matters. It is called the law of supply and demand. The labor leaders are in the habit of demanding all they think they can force the employers to give. This is an error. They should ask no more than what is just for that is all they can hold. If they force a greater concession than they deserve, the excesses will be subtracted from the wages of other workers who are weaker than they. For the law of supply and demand, the great natural law, will not be denied. If the railroad brotherhoods succeed in forcing a twenty-five per cent wage increase through the eight-hour day, proposed by President Wilson, and it proves more than is deserved, the situation will gradually readjust itself in a variety of ways, and the men in the course of time will find that they are really receiving no more than they did before. For instance, what a man is paid for his services is not to be measured in dollars, but in the commodities his toil will buy. If the railway brotherhoods could force wages of one hundred dollars an hour, the benefits they would receive would be but temporary, for the prices of commodities would immediately react against this rise and the cost of living would soon ascend to consume such earnings. The brotherhoods, however, would receive a big remainder of benefit, but this benefit would have to be paid by other consumers, mostly workers, many of whom are but ill prepared to meet the effects of such maladjustment.

It is a mistake to think that higher wages are exacted of capital. It is not capital that pays, but the business. Capital resists the payment of higher wages, for that means readjustment to the great natural law. It may mean that in the readjustment the capitalist will have to stand temporary losses. They are temporary only, for the natural law is inexorable. Unless the situation can be readjusted to this law and the consumer be made to stand whatever increase there is, the business is wiped out. One thing the labor leaders forget: That is, that capital controls commodities. No difference how high the workers may be able to force wages, the capitalists with the natural law to aid them can force commodities to an equilibrium, and by the arbitrary power they possess, increase the same by a few notches.

That the worker has not been receiving his share

of what is produced, is evident enough. It is undeniable that he should have all he is entitled to. But the mistake he makes is in waging his battle without either judgment or system. He does not go after what he is entitled to, but everything he can get. He does not hesitate at almost any tyranny that he thinks he can impose. No attempt is made at real organization, or to discover what is the real share in any industry to which the workers are entitled. No attempt is made to adjust wages on the basis to which all workers are entitled. No account is taken of the fact that an unjust rise in wages in one place may unjustly fall on labor in another place. Thus the railway brotherhoods in their demands take no account of the many other railway workers outside the brotherhoods whose condition is already far less favorable than their own, and on whom it is certain would have to fall part of the temporary losses due to the process of readjustment to the law of supply and demand. A lot of workers organize a union which is able to force higher wages. This may be regarded as a kind of salient pushed into the enemy's line, but economic warfare is as bad as the military kind. When it attempts to drive salients, the effect is likely to fall on other workers on the flanks, rather than where intended. The only way labor and capital will ever realize the hope of humanity is by understanding that they are partners and working together instead of fighting together. Both sides must come to some agreement as to what is just and be willing to abide by that instead of each demanding all it can get.

The difficulty of determining what is the just share of labor and of capital is fully realized. This difficulty is due to the fact that economic conditions are up in the air, and we are always striving for adjustments without starting from a point of fundamental fact. In economics there are but two fundamental facts—land and labor. There is no other way to create what we call wealth save by the action of labor on the earth. All the different kinds of labor, distribution and capital, are but different forms of these two great primary facts. The way to settle most of the problems of capital and industry is to get back to these two fundamental elements. The first thing to do is to destroy privilege in land, for that is the privilege on which all other privileges rest. Privilege is the great wrong, and the mother which has bred all the other privileges with their concomitant wrongs, is the land privilege. The thing to do is to throw open the earth for the use of the people who now live on it. If that were done the prices of commodities and of labor would come near adjusting themselves all along the line.

As matters now lie the forces of industrialism are waging war with all combatants cut off from their bases and without either knowing where those bases are.

♦♦♦♦

Why I Favor Prohibition

By Whidden Graham

THE basis of the agitation for prohibitory laws is the assumed right of the "good" people of the country to compel the "bad" people to do what they think is best for them. As I am one of the "good" people who do not like alcoholic beverages, I demand that their use by "bad" people shall be absolutely prohibited.

Small-minded persons have derided our claim that we are the "good," and have pointed out that history is full of cases where men assuming to be better than their fellows, have tortured and killed those who did not agree with them, in order to force them also to be good. There is a vast difference between the bigots who tried to make them religious by law, and ourselves. They only thought that they were good. We know that we are good.

The report of the "Committee of Fifty to Investigate the Liquor Problem" states that 80 per cent

of the adult male population of the country use alcoholic beverages. This shows that 80 per cent of the adult males are unfit to govern themselves.

I believe in majority rule when the majority favors prohibition. I favor minority rule in matters relating to the personal tastes of those whose ideas differ from mine, and want laws enacted that will put them in jail, if they persist in their wicked ways.

I believe that the people in general are incapable of deciding wisely as to their personal habits, and that the small and select minority, of which I am one, can regulate the private affairs of the majority a great deal better than they can themselves.

People who do not agree with me are either foolish or wicked. The foolish should be restrained by law from following their inclinations. The wicked should be punished for refusing to live as I do.

I hold that it is the duty of American citizens to impose by law their peculiar ideas of virtue and morality upon their neighbors. If the latter protest, they must be made to understand that they have no rights that we reformers are bound to respect.

It is claimed by the opponents of prohibition that the prohibitory laws of the various dry states have always failed to decrease the use of liquors. While this is true, it merely shows the inherent cussedness of human nature, in that men prefer to follow their own selfish desires, rather than obey the rules of conduct that we have wisely laid down for them.

The only way to make men truly moral and virtuous is to deprive them of temptation by unenforceable legislation. My idea of virtue is a man in a three-acre lot, surrounded by a six-foot-high barb wire fence.

The crying evil of the age is the selfish tendency of the great mass of people to attend to their own business, instead of meddling with other people's affairs. I believe that, "Blessed are the busybodies, for they shall annoy the whole earth."

The protection of fools against the consequences of their own folly is the highest function of government, and ensures the production of a bigger crop of fools.

Prohibition puts the ban of outlawry on the liquor traffic; drives all self-respecting and decent men out of the business; and makes it necessary for those who wish to drink to get their liquor from irresponsible dealers. This is deplorable; but I cannot allow facts to interfere with my determination to compel men to do as I do, instead of as they wish.

I believe that although prohibition promotes hypocrisy, and disrespect for law, it is far better to have laws that are not enforced, than to leave the people to their own devices.

The excessive use of alcoholic beverages is injurious to health. Excessive eating causes indigestion, auto-intoxication, and a host of other evils. Therefore, the manufacture and sale of food should be prohibited.

Mankind in general are so foolish that they cannot learn by experience what is good for them. It is therefore necessary that we, the wise minority, should assume the burden of regulating their personal habits.

Many cases have been known of poor people drinking. Their drinking habits must have caused their poverty. It is true that many rich people also drink, but drinking has nothing to do with their prosperity.

Opponents of prohibition claim that the simplest and easiest way to prevent the excessive use of liquors would be for the people who cannot drink in moderation to stop drinking. This might be an effective remedy, but what would become of us subsidized reformers and professional agitators?

I favor prohibition because I believe in personal liberty and the right of every man to do as he pleases, so long as he does what pleases me.

Lastly: I am for prohibition because I find no enjoyment in drinking, and I can see no reason why pleasures that are denied to me should be allowed to other people.

Letters From the People

Wants Reedy's Impressions on N. Y.
New York City, Aug. 19, 1916.

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

At the time *Collier's* ran Julian Street's series on American cities a Mr. Guy Jurden suggested that William Marion Reedy be permitted to write up New York as seen by a Westerner. There are some of us in New York who would like very much to see such an article. Where was the hitch in the arrangement?

Very truly,

ARTHUR MONTGOMERY.

*

Foreign Relations and the Daily Press
Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

At the sessions of the General Sunday School Association and of the Young People's Christian Union, recently held at New Haven, Conn., composed of lay and clerical delegates from Universalist churches and Sunday schools throughout the United States, the following resolutions relating to the question of war and peace were passed:

"1. That we are opposed to all war, except in case of actual invasion and for the defense of the lives of our people, of the free institutions of our country, and of human liberty and justice, as contrary to the spirit and teachings of Jesus;

"2. That we are grateful to the President of the United States for preventing war between ours and any other nation during his administration, that we sympathize with him in the tasks of immense difficulty that he must perform, and that we thank him for using his utmost endeavor to adjust the differences between the United States and other countries by arbitration rather than by armed conflict."

It is worthy of note that these resolutions were first passed by the General Sunday School Association. Resolutions of similar import but not so acceptably worded which were presented at the Young People's Convention, were withdrawn in order that these might be substituted. This incident gave the *Daily Register*, of New Haven, an opportunity to publish the misleading headline: "Resolution Referring to European War Withdrawn After Opposition to It Arises." The resolutions that were displaced were published, but the ones substituted were not, thus putting the convention in a false light. When the editor's attention was called to this state of affairs, he promised to make amends, but he failed to redeem his promise. The immense factories of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company are located at New Haven, and it would seem that the domination of the munitions manufacturers over the local daily press is complete, even to the extent of dictating what shall appear in their news columns.

But is New Haven an exceptional case? False and misleading statements on the part of the daily press, particularly in the matter of promoting "preparedness" parades, have already begotten in the public mind an impression that the broadsides of "Bethlehem Steel" advertising have had a subsidizing effect upon many of the papers carrying the same. Yet some people

Worth-While Savings on Luxurious Furs During Our Greatest August Sale

After September First Prices Will Be
15 to 30 Per Cent Higher

There are many advantages of buying here in August—in addition to the money saving, which, of course, amounts to considerable.

We think *First Choice* is probably the leading one.

Your choice of styles is unequaled—if you buy here—and we guarantee the quality of every piece sold to be exactly as represented—and the best for the price no matter what the price.

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Handsome Fur Coats

It is anticipated that Fur Coats will be more worn this winter than for many a year, and we are showing a handsome line—made of all the wanted furs.

There are Coats for traveling, afternoon and street wear—in both loose and belted models. Some are handsomely trimmed with contrasting furs—fur collars, fur cuffs and fur borders, of rich Skunk, Marten, Taupe Fox, Wolf, Rock Opossum, Flying Fox, etc. Coats are priced upward from

\$72.50

Fur Sets and Individual Pieces

As the line is absolutely complete right now there will be nothing gained by waiting—in fact by doing so you will lose the right of first choice and the money-saving of 15 per cent to 30 per cent. We mention just a few of the values offered.

Rich Eastern Mink Sets with plain or fancy muffs and scarfs, the set

\$250.00

Red Fox Sets with animal scarfs and round muffs. Prices range from **\$27.50** to **\$97.50**

Black Fox Sets, with animal scarf and fancy muffs, are priced upward from

\$47.50

Prairie Fox Sets, with animal scarf and fancy muffs, priced upward from

\$25.00

And You Need Pay But 25% of These Prices

at the time you make your selection (to hold your purchases), and they will be placed in our Cold Storage Vault—free of charge—until November 1st, when the balance may be paid.

(Third Floor)



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Established in 1850
OLIVE — LOCUST — NINTH — TENTH
The Best Goods for the Price No Matter What the Price

wonder why it is that these newspapers have so little political influence. When we cannot depend upon the daily press to tell the truth in regard to current events, where are we? In honest newsgathering, truthfulness is fundamental, and when a newspaper ceases to observe this cardinal principle it ceases to deserve respect.

D. C. WASHINGTON.
*

Conditions in Argentine

Buenos Aires, July 23, 1916.
Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

I see one of our financial lights has just returned from New York, where, it would seem, he delivered a number of lectures, and now we are favored with a pamphlet, "The Argentine Republic of To-day," by C. A. Tomquist. There is a preface by R. S. Naon, Argentine Ambassador in Washington—part of which reads as follows: "You are rendering a positive service to North American capitalists and manufacturers by furnishing them, backed with the moral authority conferred upon

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on you by your position, with safe and accurate information."

There's no wish to criticise this production. Just tell your readers that the figures have been very well selected and better presented, but notwithstanding since the war started the national debt has, if published figures can be relied upon, jumped up over 400 million pesos. The year 1916 promised to leave a further deficit of 180 millions. The provincial governments (we have 13 of them) are all in a very difficult financial position. Some have not paid their employes for the past five months; others have postponed interest payments for two years; the Province of Buenos Aires owes over \$500,000,000 of debt to face while Tucuman of Mendoza are issuing paper money (notes) with-

out any cash reserve. The policeman receives his salary, and so does the Governor of those provinces, by printing off so many thousands of pesos. Oh, it's a fine way of meeting debts! Every time a fresh "promise to pay" is passed out, the governors of these states of this Republic evidently shake hands with themselves and say, "Thank God, that's paid."

This country is drifting rapidly to a similar condition to those pertaining in Mexico. There will be such a bust-up some day.

Land monopoly is crushing the people. The landlords collect rent or insist on their employes, the government officials, collecting taxes on everything produced. The results will be serious, unless changed systems are adopted.

Generally, however, landlords won't get off the backs of the people until persuaded to, at the point of the rifle.

Of course, ninety per cent of the English-speaking people here would tell you that that state of affairs will never occur down here. It's always thus. When it does occur, it's "*Who'd have thought it?*" Here there are unmistakable signs that the people are gradually beginning to take matters in their own hands—not constitutionally, but otherwise. Coming events cast their shadows before them—here as elsewhere.

Yours, B.

A Question of Form

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

Mr. Pound's letter of explanation of the sculpture of Gaudier-Brezska is extremely interesting; may I ask one question?

Mr. Pound says: "It is not necessary that one should associate their form or forms with the forms of anything else. It is for the spectator to decide whether the forms of this sculpture are *in themselves* delightful. There is no need of referring the form of the statue to the form of anything else."

Why, then, are titles given to these statuary, that indicate that they were intended to refer to the form of something else? Why, for instance, is one of them called "Boy, With a Coney?"

If it is not meant to resemble a boy with a coney, why give it a misleading title? Are not spectators justified in looking for resemblances when the title clearly shows that a resemblance is to be sought?

Why not call such sculpture Opus 215, Opus 2006, as musicians call their works to indicate that it is a study in pure form?

JOHN BEVERLY ROBINSON.
Douglas, Mich.

Making 'Em Think

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

The State of California has a Tax Commission, which, unlike most tax commissions, is disposed to study the question of taxation. It is agitating the subject of taxation by asking the people questions. Here is a list of eleven questions it has just propounded to the people of this State:

Would you favor the exemption from taxation of all factories and manufactured products? (Effort is being made along this line in several States, particularly New Jersey.) Give reasons.

If most of our public revenue continues to come from property taxation, do you believe any property should be exempt from paying in some way, its percentage of such tax? If so, what property would you exempt?

Would you favor the discontinuance of the tax on personal property and the adoption of a reasonable income tax in its place? (This has been recommended by various tax commissions, and has been partially put into operation in Wisconsin, and recently adopted in Massachusetts.) Give reasons.

Do you believe improvements on land (houses, trees, etc.) should be taxed in the same proportions as the land itself? Give reasons.

Do you favor the gradual reduction

Dame Fashion Presents New Ideas in Trimmed Millinery

C And what a variety there is! If you prefer large hats—they're in vogue. Small hats—they're equally good. And there are hats all the way from small to large that find special favor in the eyes of fashion.

C This advance showing reveals many new trimming ideas—and they're as pretty as they are numerous. Introductory prices:

\$5 to \$25

Third Floor.



New Styles in Untrimmed Hats

C Paris adaptations—with the undeniable air of Lewis, Georgette, Riboux and other French modistes. New flare effects of Lyons velvet, hatters' plush, and many combinations. Pretty, indeed, in navy, brown, taupe, green, black and Bordeaux. Specially priced at

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ENTIRE BLOCK: OLIVE, LOCUST, SIXTH AND SEVENTH STS.

Largest Distributors of Merchandise
at Retail in Missouri or
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Few Restricted Articles Are Excepted.

of taxation upon buildings, trees and vines and the assumption of that tax burden by the land? Give reasons. (This proposition has been discussed in New York and other States, and attempted in Canada, New Zealand, and elsewhere. It is estimated that land in California is assessed at about one-half its full value, and it has been argued that if it were assessed at full value, improvements could be exempted without increasing the tax rate.)

It is argued that land values in cities and other social centers are greatly augmented by the amount of population, and that the community itself, and not any effort on the part of the owner of the land, gives it the high value. If this is true, do you, or do you not, believe that a man who gains this extra wealth from the community, instead of by his own efforts, should pay a greater tax proportionately? Give reasons.

If you state in your answer to the preceding question that you are in favor of a greater tax upon unearned land values, then what percentage of this unearned value do you believe should rightly come back to the community, instead of being retained by the owner? Give reasons.

Do you believe that land held for

READ

ALBERT C. WEGMAN'S

Letters in The St. Louis Times on
what is new in Stage and Music in
New York and Boston.

THE LAST WORD IN AMUSEMENT NEWS.

speculation should be taxed heavier than the land used for home, agricultural or business purposes? Give reasons.

Do you favor the idea of setting aside certain classes of property to be taxed for certain purposes (for instance, for State or county purposes solely) without regard to the relative burden of tax borne by the different classes of property? Give reasons.

Do you favor classifying property according to its earning ability and taxing it in proportion to that ability? Give reasons.

Do you favor a system of indirect

taxation for city and county governments, similar to that now used by the State? Give reasons.

Such questions as these are likely in time to have disturbing results to entrenched privilege. They are calculated to make the people think, and that is always unfortunate for those who profit by popular thoughtlessness. If a man thinks long enough and hard enough he is likely to get back to the beginning of the subject. He is likely to become a convert to the Single Tax.

THE FORTY-NINER,
San Francisco, Cal.

Summer Shows

The greatest of all Park revues, "Let's Go," will be held over for another week at the West End playhouse. So many requests have been received from Park patrons to play the bill an additional week, that the management has billed it for the week of August 28 as "The Second Edition of Let's Go," with additional features.

Scenic Artist Oelrich is in line for a word of praise for his exceptional stage settings in this novel musical revue. Roger Gray and Mack Whiting are credited with the production. Gray and Kent furnish most of the comedy, while Sarah Edwards and Florence Mackie do the feminine leads. Carl Haydn is exceptionally good in the role of *Murphy*, the Irish promoter. Frances Lieb is very pleasing in his portrayal of the confectionery shop proprietor. Harry Fender and Julie Goss add merriment to this elaborate production. Lillian Ludlow and Emmett McDonald are also most pleasing in their respective roles. Miss Ludlow was well received in her specialty with Gray.

Cora Youngblood Corson's Instrumentalists, America's representative lady musicians, will head the vaudeville programme at the Grand Opera House the week beginning Monday. There are nine talented girls in the act and their instrumental harmony and solo work leave nothing to be desired. The setting of the act is most artistic.

"A Business Proposal" is a classy sketch in which Monroe, Healy and Joyce do some very funny work. It deals with married life.

The Victoria Four, male harmony singers and comedians, present a quartette turn that never fails to meet with general approval.

The world's foremost hoop rollers, the Gregory Troupe, will show some feats that seem impossible with hoops.

The Dunedin Duo are versatile vaudevillians. They sing, dance, perform on tight wires, ride bicycles and do many other things.

Henry and Adelaide, introducing a change in dancing; Dot Marcelle, a character singing comedienne; Swain and Ostman, in a comedy bump act; Onetta, "The Dervish Whirlwind," and new animated and comedy pictures complete a fine bill.

New Books Received

THE THIRTEENTH COMMANDMENT by Rupert Hughes. New York: Harper & Bros.; \$1.40.

"Thou shalt not spend more than thou earnest" is the commandment, and the consequences of its infringement are woven into an absorbing novel.

GOOD OLD ANNA by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes. New York: George H. Doran; \$1.35.

An old German servant in an English family during war times furnishes the theme for this novel. Any possible merit of the book is marred by the impossible dialect ascribed to the title character.

THE HEART OF RACHAEL by Kathleen Norris. New York: Doubleday-Page & Co.; \$1.35.

An absorbing novel of which divorce is the keynote. Frontispiece in colors.

THE SINGLE TAX MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES by Arthur Nichols Young. Princeton University Press; \$1.50.

A historical account of the single tax movement in the United States, with a discussion of the tactics of the single taxers, their program, the present status of the movement, and its influence upon economic thought and upon fiscal and social reform; written from personal investigations made where Henry George lived

ADVANCE SALE OF FALL FOOTWEAR

THIS event is one that vitally interests all the family. It is a sale originated in St. Louis by this store, and which each year has proven THE Shoe Selling Occasion of the season. The footwear is of authentic style and best manufacture.

Women's \$8 to \$10 Fall Boots, Special \$5.85

Black kid with white washable kid tops—calfskin with white washable kid tops, stitched with white throughout, and imitation wing tips. Also all white washable kid with gray kid trimmings, and patent vamps with white tops. Full French heels—all new lasts.

Women's \$6 to \$7 Fall Boots at \$4.85

Tan calf with tan kid tops—tan kid with champagne kid tops—black kid with white kid tops—bronze kid and dull calf with ivory kid tops. Also all-black kidskins.

Women's Smart Fall Boots, Special \$2.85

Patent leather or dull kidskin and gunmetal calf, with dull kid or cloth tops. Plain toes, either curved French or straight Cuban heels.

Women's Fall Shoes Walk-Over "Rejects" \$2.35

These are Walkover "Rejects" of \$4 and \$5 grades. Made of dull or patent leather, plain and combination effects. New lasts, new styles, new heels.

Men, Too, Can Save!

In This Advance Fall Sale of Shoes

\$1.00 Off Regular Price any Pair of "American Gentleman" Shoes

All new fall styles, in a great variety of leathers.

1500 Pairs Men's New Fall Shoes

"American Gentleman" samples and Walk-over "Rejects"—regularly \$5.00 and \$6.00, on sale at, per pair.

\$2.85

Main Floor.

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and where his doctrines have been put into practice. This book should not be confounded with the writings put forth by the single tax propaganda; it is an impartial study of an important factor in present day economics and politics.

HANDBOOK OF NATURE STUDY by Anna Botsford Comstock. Ithaca, N. Y.: Comstock Publishing Co. (1915).

Exactly what the title indicates, most exhaustive and comprehensive, dealing with the teaching of nature study, embracing birds, fish, batrachians, reptiles, mammals, insects, wildflowers, cultivated plants and flowerless plants, trees, earth and sky and the weather. Beautifully printed and illustrated with photographs from life. In two volumes, with a bibliography and a thorough index.

FONDIE by Edward C. Booth. New York: D. Appleton & Co.; \$1.40.

A romance of a Yorkshire village with much of Yorkshire dialect.

VOCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY by Harry L. Hollingworth. New York: D. Appleton & Co.; \$2.00.

A conscientious attempt at a complete, exact and authoritative presentation of the problems, methods and results of the psychology of vocation compiled after several years of experimental and comparative study of the various methods now used in selecting a vocation; of interest to the individual, parent, teacher and business man.

HAY-FEVER by William C. Holloper, M. D., New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls; \$1.25.

All about the prevention and cure of this dread summer disease, by the professor of pediatrics in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, who has specialized in the study and treatment of hay fever for many years. A book designed for laymen as well as physicians.

AMERICANIZATION by Royal Dixon. New York: Macmillan & Co.; 50c.

Sixth in the "Our National Problems" series, defining Americanization and what it must accomplish.

THE WAR FOR THE WORLD by Israel Zangwill. New York: Macmillan & Co.; \$1.50.

In this volume Zangwill writes uniquely and fearlessly of his conception of the war in its relation to the drama, women, German

GRAPHICS

Harris Merton Lyon's

Last and Best Book

In these fifteen stories Lyon is graphic—he graves
He bites in as with an acid. His inkwell holds
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life but not for life itself.

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1845. There is much of interesting anecdote and little known facts—such as the race winnings for the American Bible Society in 1829.

Illustrated with cuts of famous thoroughbreds, and fully indexed.

CHRISTIAN CERTAINTIES OF BELIEF by Julian K. Smyth. New York: The New Church Press, 75c.

A religious work reaffirming in positive terms the truths of the Christian belief: composed of four essays—on Christ, the Bible, salvation and immortality.

Government Publication: NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO.

RETAIL SELLING by James W. Fisk. New York: Harper & Bros.; \$1.00.

A comprehensive textbook on every phase and angle of retail selling by the director of selling service at Lord & Taylor's.

YOUNG INDIA by Lajpat Rai. New York: B. W. Huebsch; \$1.50.

An interpretation and a history of the Nationalist movement by a distinguished native of India, who in his own country is known as leader, lawyer, author, traveler, philanthropist, publisher, reformer and leading member of the National Indian Congress.

♦♦♦

Marts and Money

Wall Street's community remains in a fretful and hesitating disposition. It refuses to be comforted by soothing utterances in exalted quarters. Nor does it feel especially encouraged over the enlarged demand for the common stock of the United States Steel Corporation, which raised the price to 92½, the highest notch since 1009. In that year, violent manipulation established an absolute maximum of 94½. In the opinion of the professional oracles, the near future will witness an advance to 100. Not altogether improbable. The controlling powers can bring that about conveniently, if they have their minds set upon it. Well, anyway, the "bull" leaders have a hard time getting things in proper shape for another big rise all along the line, the more or less brilliant "stunts" in Steel, Reading, Union Pacific, United Fruit, and Pacific Mail notwithstanding. By some observers, the blame for this is put upon the struggle in the railroad industry; by others, upon the uncertainty concerning the November elections. There are hints, also, that finances in Europe have entered a perilous phase, and that sensational occurrences may be looked for in the next three or four months. In this connection, careful note is taken of the fact that the \$250,000,000 British loan, about to be floated, will be supported by collateral valued at \$300,000,000. Included in this amount will be a big batch of American securities. The transaction will be a striking success, undoubtedly, but the stern and significant fact remains that for the first time in its history the British Government has to put up collateral in order to be able to raise a loan. France, it will be recalled, had to do the same thing some weeks ago. In pre-war times, these two nations used to be regarded as the principal financial powers in the world. What a tremendous change the war has already brought about, my friends! Exactly what the state of things is in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Italy, we do not know. It is safe to say, however, that in those countries, likewise, conditions are bad and premonitory of sinister crises in the not distant future.

The quoted values for prominent railroad stocks show no changes of real consequence. They are about the same, in the majority of instances, as they were a week ago, or a month ago, or three months ago. This, in the face of fine monthly statements of earnings and promises of resumption, or initiation, or enlargement of dividend payments in

the cases of such properties as the Atchison, Baltimore & Ohio, Chicago, M. & St. Paul; Erie, Illinois Central, New York Central, Pennsylvania, Chesapeake & Ohio, Southern Railway, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. Atchison common, the annual rate on which could easily be advanced from 6 to 7 per cent, is selling at 103½, against 111¼ last November; St. Paul common has declined from 102½ to 94½ since last January; Chicago & Northwestern common, from 134½ to 126½; Illinois Central, from 109½ to 101¾; Great Northern, from 127½ to 117, and New York Central, from 111½ to 103½. Almost all other certificates show similar depreciation. In the case of Union Pacific common, the loss amounts to about \$4.

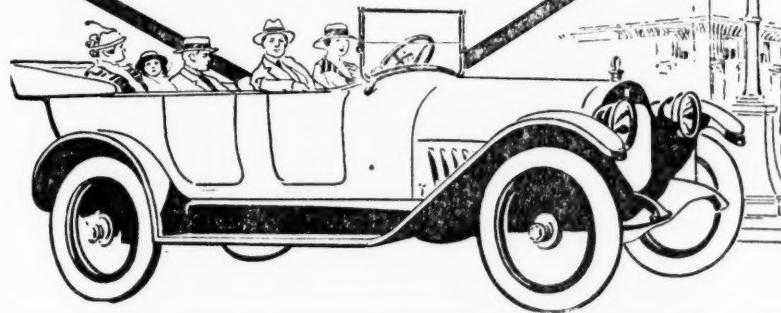
With regard to this class of certificates, it may justly be remarked, of course, that the threat of a railroad strike has been for months, and still is at this moment, a visibly depressive factor. It caused some liquidation, and prevented purchases for the account of parties who felt appreciative of the reasonableness of quoted prices, of the probabilities of higher rates of payment, and of the prospects of speculative profits. The controversy between the companies and their employes is unfortunate, to say the least. It comes at a time fraught with big problems in finance and politics; at a time when not even the astute of observers dare form definite opinions as to the probable condition of things a year hence. In existing circumstances, it appears supremely desirable that nothing be done that would be the least calculated to damage the values of railroad securities still more than they already have been damaged, in consequence of reduced crop prospects, European liquidation, and heavy borrowing by various belligerent and neutral governments.

The New York money market continues steady at slightly lower rates. It is helped by the improved position of the Clearing-House banks and trust companies. The aggregate amount of surplus reserves is approximately half of what it was a year ago, but nearly \$70,000,000 above the minimum of recent months. It is apparent that the regnant financiers are assiduously striving to keep matters in a reassuring state. They are not in favor of spectacular doings on the Stock Exchange. They think that the permanent interests of the American people will best be promoted by the flotation of loans that are expressly designed to extend the foreign markets of American merchants and manufacturers. The Government of Chili, it is reported, has just been granted a credit of \$50,000,000; that of Argentina, it is intimated, intends to apply for a loan of \$100,000,000 at 6 per cent. By the end of 1916, the total of funds advanced to other countries since the outbreak of the war will be about \$2,500,000,000. In addition, we have repurchased our own securities to the tune of \$2,100,000,000, according to the figuring of competent authorities. The grand total of international financing will thus be \$4,600,000,000 by December 31. Some sum, sure enough! It testifies in graphic fashion to the immensity of wealth in the United States; also to the fast growing power of the people to gather surplus capital. It is

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estimated that for 1916 the total accumulation of excess funds, or savings in one form or another, will be \$2,400,000,000. This sets one to wondering what the record would be if Americans were as economical as are the people of England, France and Germany. But here another thought obtrudes itself: Should not our rapid economic advancement be regarded as the result, to some extent, of our generous style of living? I think it should.

The shares of the Chicago, M. & St. Paul, Great Northern, and Northern Pacific Railway Companies respond but feebly, if at all, to the recurrent recoveries in the general market. Their values are manifestly held down, not only by the labor controversy, but also



by the gloomy advices as to the spring wheat harvests. In the course of a month or two, the latter factor will undoubtedly lose most of its hurtful influence. There is no reason for fearing

REEDY'S MIRROR

a cut in dividend rates in the three cases mentioned. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, the Northern Pacific should be able to report at least 9 per cent earned on its capital stock; the dividend rate is 7 per cent. The Chicago, M. & St. Paul should be sufficiently strong, financially, not merely to maintain its 5 per cent dividend rate, but to raise it to 6 per cent. It must not be forgotten that the Northwestern States are developing at an unprecedented rate, both agriculturally and industrially.

The grain markets continue in a boiling condition. They are recording extensive fluctuations day after day. May wheat is currently valued at \$1.50, against \$1.08 a year ago. May corn is worth 87 cents, against 65 $\frac{1}{4}$; May oats, 52 cents, against 41 $\frac{1}{8}$. Mr. Patten, the well-known plunger, sagely observed, the other day, that the wheat market is in an extraordinarily strong position. Interesting, is it not? The boys smiled, though, when informed of Patten's words. They wondered if he might have commenced unloading, and if the end of the "boom" was in sight. Irrespective of this, it should be stated that the trade situation is indeed decidedly interesting, and conducive, therefore, to heavy speculation on both sides. There can be no acute break in prices, pending authoritative news as to crop prospects in Argentina, Australia, and India. In the two countries first named, harvesting will begin in December.

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Finance in St. Louis.

They have a fairly active and steady market on Fourth Street. It is largely reflective of speculative calculations, especially in so far as industrial issues are concerned. The inquiry for investment securities has slackened to some extent, but it is firmly expected in brokerage circles that there should be another gratifying turn for the better after October 1. The hopeful attitude is based on the assumption that money markets should remain in satisfactory condition throughout the remaining period of the year; also on the increased accumulation of surplus money both in city and surrounding territory. There is a broader quest for funds from the farming communities, but quoted interest rates continue unchanged. Time loans are rated at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent; for commercial paper the charges are 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Drafts on New York are quoted at 15 cents discount bid, 5 cents discount asked per \$1,000. These rates are plainly indicative of a comfortable state of affairs at the local financial establishments.

There was quite a brisk inquiry for Wagner Electric Manufacturing stock. The total of transfers, comprising over one hundred shares, brought an advance of nearly \$10; the current price is 260. The low point in 1915 was 125. Seven thousand dollars of Independent Breweries 6s were sold at 64.75—an unchanged price; ten International Shoe preferred at 109; ten of the common at 97.50; and ten Candy common at 10.25.

But little interest was displayed in United Railways issues. The 4 per cent bonds were taken at the previous figure of 61.75; \$8,000 in all changed hands. There was no trading in the shares. One thousand dollars of Comp-

ton Heights Railway 6s were disposed of at 100.75.

Title Guaranty Trust was again a lively feature in the banking group. One hundred and thirty-five shares were transferred at 103 to 111.50. The latter price represents an advance of \$61 when compared with the low notch in 1915. Five shares of Mechanics-American Bank brought 249.50, and five shares of Chippewa Bank, 250.

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Latest Quotations.

	Bid.	Asked.
German-American Bank ..	200	
Nat. Bank of Commerce ..	107	108
State National Bank ..	200	
United Railways com... do pfd.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
do 4s	61	62
St. L. & Sub. gen. 5s.....	75	76
Laclede Gas 5s.....	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Dallas Gas 5s.....	90	
K. C. Home Tel. 5s (\$100)	92 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Toledo Home Tel. 5s.....	94	
Missouri Edison 5.....	100	
St. L. Cotton Compress...	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	40
International Shoe com... do pfd.	110	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
General Roofing Co. pfd.	100	
Granite-Bimetallic	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	65
American Bakery 6s.....	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Hamilton-Brown	120	
National Candy com... do 1st pfd.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wagner Electric	98	
City of St. Louis 4s (1927)	265	275
	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102

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Answers to Inquiries.

CURIOUS, Bloomington, Ill.—The 6 per cent second preferred stock of the Maxwell Motor Co. still is regarded as a largely speculative proposition, the 10 per cent on the common notwithstanding. This accounts for the relatively low price of 58, denoting a net yield of nearly 10.50 per cent. If the company remains in a prosperous condition a year or two longer, the price is likely to advance to 80. The 7 per cent preferred stock, quoted at 87, should be more suitable to your purposes. It nets a little over 8 per cent. It's not a first-class stock investment, however. Bear that in mind.

R. J. D., Louisiana, Mo.—(1) There's no probability of an increase from 4 to 5 per cent in the dividend rate on National Lead common in the next six months. The management pursues a conservative policy as regards payments on the common stock, though the price of lead still is considerably above the level of a year ago. (2) Goodrich common stock is not a particularly desirable purchase for investment; it's merely an attractive speculation. There are "tips" of a rise to 85 before December 31. They are attended by intimations of an increase in the dividend rate from 4 to 5 per cent. If you can afford to run the risks involved, you might try your luck.

STOCKHOLDER, Wheeling, W. Va.—It's conceivable that Republic Iron & Steel common might advance to 65 before long. The property is in fine shape, financially and physically, and the remaining debt on the preferred stock will doubtless be paid before 1916 is rung out. The latest statement disclosed a very substantial amount available for common stockholders. If nothing serious happens, a dividend of 3 or 4 per cent may be disbursed in 1917. It would be advisable for you to stick to your holdings and to add to them in case of a sizable break.

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At 101 and accrued interest on any date prior to September 1, 1917.

At 100½ and accrued interest on September 1, 1917, and on any date thereafter prior to maturity.

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	<i>Value.</i>
Stocks, bonds and/or other securities of corporations organized in the United States . . .	\$100,000,000
Bonds and/or other obligations of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, either as maker or guarantor, and stocks, bonds and/or other securities of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company . . .	100,000,000
Bonds and/or other obligations of the several following Governments, either as maker or guarantor, viz., of Argentina, Chile, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and/or Holland . . .	100,000,000

Pending the arrival and deposit of securities as above, the Government is to deposit temporarily with the Trust Company at the time of issue of the notes, either approved New York Stock Exchange collateral of aggregate value equal to that of the then undelivered securities and/or cash equal to five-sixths of such value. All such temporary collateral is to be exchanged from time to time in the same relative proportions upon the deposit of the above mentioned securities.

If the pledged securities depreciate in value because of change in market price or in rate of exchange, the Government is to deposit additional securities with the Trust Company, to the end that the aggregate value of the pledged securities shall equal at least 120% of the principal amount of the notes at the time unpaid and not secured by deposited cash.

The Government is to reserve the right from time to time to sell for cash any of the pledged securities, in which event the proceeds of sale are to be received by the Trust Company and applied to the retirement of notes by purchase, if obtainable at prices not exceeding the then redemption price, and otherwise by redemption by lot at the redemption price.

The Government is to reserve the right also to make substitutions of securities, but such substitutions are not to vary the relative amounts in value of the above-indicated three several groups of securities at the time held by the Trust Company.

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